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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118034

ADDIS ABABA FOR AS SHATTUCK; BUJUMBURA FOR CHARGE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS THE SITUATION REPORT ON RWANDA/BURUNDI CIRCULATED IN THE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 4.

BEGIN TEXT.

SITUATION ON THE GROUND

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(C) THERE WAS VERY HEAVY FIGHTING IN KIGALI YESTERDAY, BUT IT IS CALMER TODAY. ONE UN SOLDIER WAS INJURED AT THE AIRPORT BY MORTAR FIRE. YESTERDAY'S MILLE COLLINE CONVOY WAS BLOCKED AFTER RADIO RTLM TOLD THE PEOPLE TO GO OUT ON THE STREET AND PREVENT IT FROM LEAVING. 350 ORPHANS YESTERDAY WERE EVACUATED TO GOMA FROM GYSENYI. THERE ARE STILL 5,000 REFUGEES IN CYANGUGU STADIUM; LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE BLOCKING ICRC EFFORTS TO REACH THEM FROM BUKAVU. (TELCON AFC/GOR GEN RUSATIRA)

(LOU) ACCORDING TO UNAMIR, THE UN-ESCORTED REFUGEE CONVOY FROM THE MILLES COLLINES HOTEL YESTERDAY RETURNED TO THE

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HOTEL AFTER A STANDOFF WITH GOR FORCES. FIVE PEOPLE IN THE CONVOY WERE INJURED. NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE WILL BE MADE FOR A DAY OR TWO. (TELCON AFC/UNFORCE COMMANDER'S OFFICE-KIGALI)

(LOU) THE GOR TODAY SAID THE MILLES COLLINES CONVOY HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO PASS BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT ALLOW IT TO PASS. AFTER THE KIGALI PREFET AND THE RWANDAN MILITARY INTERVENED, THE CONVOY WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE HOTEL. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE RWANDAN ARMY SAID THE CONVOY COULD TRY AGAIN TODAY. (GOR FAX)

(LOU) A RWANDAN TODAY TOLD HIS AMCIT SPOUSE THE MARKET IN KIGALI WAS OPEN AND HE WAS ABLE TO MOVE FREELY. POTATOES ARE AVAILABLE, SUGGESTING THE ROAD TO THE NORTH IS OPEN. (AFC/AMCIT TELCON)

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DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

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(LOU) THE RWANDAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF ARE IN ARUSHA. PROXIMITY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD, BUT DIRECT TALKS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN. THE GOT TABLED A CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL; NEITHER SIDE HAS RESPONDED. SOME OF THE OBSERVERS ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE ARUSHA. (AFC/DE VOS TELCON)

(C) BOUTROS-GHALI, FOLLOWING TALKS WITH SEVERAL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE, YESTERDAY TOLD AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT THERE IS NOT A LOT OF INTEREST IN AN ECOMOG STYLE UN/OAU PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN RWANDA AND, IF IT LACKED SUPPORT, HE WOULD TURN BACK TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. (USUN 01880)

(C) THE SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY DISCUSSED RWANDA. ENTIMENT RAN IN FAVOR OF AN ARMS EMBARGO AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION, BUT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER RESULTS FROM THE ARUSHA TALKS ARE KNOWN. (USUN 01873)

(C) FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO RWANDA MARLAUD WILL MEET WITH TANZANIAN PRESIDENT MWINYI, THEN VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THE GOF HAS LITTLE FAITH IN THE OAU AND ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE IN THE UN TO FIND RAPID, DURABLE SOLUTIONS LEADING TO A CEASEFIRE AND RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS; THEREFORE, MARLAUD IS TO ENCOURAGE, PROD, AND ASSIST THE

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NEIGHBORING STATES TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL SOLUTION TO THE  
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CRISIS. (PARIS 12197)

(C) RPF COMMANDER KAGAME ON MAY 1 TOLD DAS BUSHNELL THE IMPENDING UNHCR VISIT MAY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO HALT THE MASSACRES HE SAYS ARE CONTINUING IN GOR CONTROLLED TERRITORY, SUGGESTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SEND A STRONG MESSAGE TO THE GOR LEADERSHIP THAT THEY CANNOT CONTINUE TO "KILL WITH IMPUNITY". HE SAID A N/OAU OR OAU INTERVENTION FORCE TO PROTECT REFUGEES WAS ALSO ACCEPTABLE. HE CONFIRMED FIGHTING CONTINUED IN KIGALI, REITERATED THE RPF WAS KEEPING THE TANZANIA BORDER OPEN, AND PLEDGED TO SAFEGUARD THE LIVES OF RWANDANS AND RELIEF WORKERS IN RPF CONTROLLED AREAS. (SECSTATE 115709)

(U) THE RPF ON MAY 3 CALLED FOR UNSER BOOH-BOOH TO BE REPLACED, BLAMING HIS PRESENCE FOR JEOPARDIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AND DECISIONS MADE BY THE "CRISIS COMMITTEE SET UP IN KIGALI ON APRIL 6. THE RPF REJECTED N INTERVENTION, WHICH "WOULD DO NOTHING MORE THAN ENABLE THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND...FAR TO GO UNPUNISHED FOR THEIR CRIMES". (RADIO MUHABURA FBIS BR030532)

(LOU) MURIGANDE, RPF REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON, CONFIRMED TODAY THAT A UN/OAU INTERPOSITION FORCE TO IMPOSE A CEASEFIRE AND CAUSE THE RPF TO NEGOTIATE WITH KILLERS IS UNACCEPTABLE, BUT IF THE FORCE WAS USED TO STOP THE MURDERS THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE., THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST HOLD THE GOR "KILLERS" RESPONSIBLE, THE RPF WILL OPPOSE A UN FORCE IF THAT WOULD GIVE THE KILLERS A WAY OUT OR A FUTURE ROLE IN RWANDAN POLITICS.

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(AFC/MURIGANDE TELCON)

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

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(C) FRANCE'S INITIAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT INCLUDES 40 TONS OF MATERIAL FLOWN TO BUJUMBURA. THE GOF INTENDS TO PURCHASE FOODSTUFFS IN THE REGION AND KEEP ONE PLANE IN THE REGION FOR USE OF UN AND FRENCH NGO'S. (PARIS 12197)

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(U) THE UNHCR YESTERDAY ASKED USMISSION GENEVA IF THE UNITED STATES CAN PROVIDE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FOR THE AIRLIFT OF PLASTIC SHEETING AND BLANKETS FROM TURKEY TO TANZANIA. CANADIAN C-130 FLIGHTS INTO KIGALI HAVE BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL MAY 8. (GENEVA 04175)

(U) THE ICRC YESTERDAY SAID 21 CHILDREN AND 13 RWANDESE RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS ON MAY 1 WERE KILLED IN AN ATTACK ON AN ORPHANAGE IN BUTARE. THE RWANDA/BURUNDI EMERGENCY UNIT OF THE UNHCR ESTIMATES THERE ARE 304,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES FROM THE CURRENT CONFLICT AND 208,000 BURUNDI REFUGEES. 188,000 BURUNDIAN REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO BURUNDI SINCE LAST JANUARY. (USMISSION GENEVA 04176)

BURUNDI

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(C) BUJUMBURA AND SURROUNDING AREAS REMAIN RELATIVELY CALM. KAMENGE RESIDENTS ARE RETURNING TO THEIR RESIDENCES, BUT KINAMA IS SAID TO BE RELATIVELY EMPTY;  
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MANY OF ITS RESIDENTS REPORTEDLY MOVED TO OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS OR WENT AS FAR AS UVIRA, ZAIRE. THE NUMBER OF RWANDAN REFUGEES IN BURUNDI HAS REPORTEDLY JUMPED SINCE LAST WEEKEND FROM 37,000 TO ABOUT 50,000. (BURUNDI SITREP 16, BUJUMBURA 1523)

(U) INTERIM PRESIDENT SYLVESTRE NTIBANTUNGANYA, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE", SAID REFORM OF BURUNDI'S ARMY, AS WELL AS THE POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION, SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH SOLELY IN TERMS OF "ETHNIC QUOTAS", BUT RATHER ON THE BASIS OF IDEOLOGICAL, REGIONAL, AND ETHNIC CRITERIA SO THAT THEY ARE REPRESENTATIVE, LEGAL, AND RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO SAID THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ABDICATED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, "SETTING UP A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND AT THE SAME TIME SHOWING THAT IT IS INCAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING EVEN THE FIRST OF THESE RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO LIVE". HE CALLED FOR THE PRESENCE IN BURUNDI OF UN CIVIL AUTHORITIES TO SERVE AS A BASE FROM WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS COULD BE OBSERVED AND MONITORED. (LA LIBRE BELGIQUE FBIS)

2. BUJUMBURA - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
TALBOTT

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